

Name of Applicant Type of Certificate	Proposal	Map/Plan Policy	Plan Ref. Expiry Date
<b>Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council 'A'</b>	Installation of Silicon Photovoltaic Cells - Bromsgrove District Council Depot, Aston Road, Bromsgrove, B60 3EX	EMP	<b>11/0631-DK</b> 15.09.2011

This application is a joint application between Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council and will need to be considered by the Planning Committee, rather than being considered under delegated powers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** that permission be **GRANTED**.

#### Consultations

WH	Consulted 27.07.2011. No response to date.
CLIMHCG	Consulted 27.07.2011. No response to date.
Publicity	1 letter sent 12.08.2011, expires 02.09.2011. Site Notice posted 11.08.2011, expires 01.09.2011. No responses received.

#### The site and its surroundings

The application site is the Bromsgrove District Council Depot at Aston Road. The site forms part of an industrial estate with the railway to the south east. The building is composed of brick and corrugated metal, which is typical of the industrial buildings in the locality.

#### Proposal

The proposal is for the installation of Silicon Photovoltaic Cells on the roof of the depot building and these will be visible on the north west and south east elevations.

#### Relevant Policies

WMSS	QE1, EN1, EN2
WCSP	CTC.1, CTC.2, CTC.7, EN.2, SD.2
BDLP	DS13
DCS2	CP19
Others	PPS1, PPS22

#### Relevant Planning History

There is no relevant planning history.

## Notes

The application proposes the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the existing depot at Aston Road. The proposal will fulfil the Council's objective of reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions arising from day to day operations.

The electricity generated will be used on the site and any surplus generated, which is not used (such as at weekends) will be exported back to the National Grid.

The main considerations in determining this application are:

- (i) the policy position which seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and switch to renewable sources
- (ii) the impact of the proposal on the character of the building and the surrounding area

### (i) Policy

There is a recurrent theme within the RSS, WCSP, BDLP and national guidance to encourage the provision of infrastructure for renewable energy generation. PPS 22 also advises against the rejection planning applications for small scale renewable energy projects simply because the level of output, or number of buildings supplied, is small.

Members should Core Policy 19 of the emerging Core Strategy is strongly supportive of the provision of *zero or low carbon energy generation technologies*. These proposals must be appropriate to the landscape character and townscape of an area.

Therefore, the need to increase energy efficiency and to derive a greater proportion of the energy used from renewable, sustainable sources, and to reduce carbon emissions, is well enshrined in national and local policies.

### (ii) Character

The impact of the proposal on the character of the building and surrounding area must be considered. The depot is well set back from Aston Road and has a utilitarian, functional appearance with a structure which is part brick/part corrugated metal. The solar photovoltaic cells will have the appearance of rooflights. I do not consider that the alteration would be detrimental to the character of the existing building or that of the surrounding area, which consists of a variety of modern industrial units. I note that most of the cells will be located on the south west elevation which is not visible from Aston Road. There are no residential properties in proximity to the site.

## Conclusion

The proposal is strongly supported by existing and emerging policies and there are no identified adverse impacts on amenity. Permission should be granted.

11/0631-DK - Installation of Silicon Photovoltaic Cells - Bromsgrove District Council Depot, Aston Road, Bromsgrove, B60 3EX - Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council

**RECOMMENDATION:** that planning permission is **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

1. C1
2. C1A